(b) whether a large number of employees were abruptly thrown out of employment;

(c) whether the Government issued subsequently order for employing the employees of the said corporation in other departments;

(d) whether despite orders, most of the employees have not yet been given employment; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). U.P State Brushware Corporation Ltd., Moradabad is a State Government undertaking and as such it is not within the administrative jurisdiction of the Central Government.

Revival of 'The Sathe Biscuits and Chocolates Ltd.'

2112. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that 'The State Biscuits and Chocolates Ltd.' Pune has stopped its production and closed its working;

(b) whether the above company was declared 'sick' and the BIFR was trying to revive the company;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made so far by the BIFR for revival of the company?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that M/s. Sathe Biscuits and Chocolates Company Limited was registered with it in 1991 under section 3(1) (O) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). The BIFR directed the Operating Agency (OA) to issue advertisement seeking offers for change in company's management. In response to the advertisement, a number of enquiries were received. The promoters of the company alongwith a co-promoter also submitted a revised revival proposal. The BIFR in its hearing held on 10.09.1996 directed the OA to examine and analyse the proposal from the point of view of its technical, commerical and economic viability and discuss the matter with all concerned.

Indo-Italian Economic Cooperation

2113. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the status of the Indo-Italian economic cooperation since the onset of liberalisation process in July 1991 till September 1996;

(b) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposal approved so far/under consideration and their likely impact on the economy of the country;

(c) whether the Government have initiated the dialogue between the policy makers, businessmen and professionals of the two countries and if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of strategies worked out for promotion of FDI from Itlay in industrial ventures and promotion of exports and targets set and realised so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) Indo-Italian Economic Cooperation is generally monitored and reviewed at the meetings of the Indo-Italian Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation. Since July, 1991 three meetings of the Joint Committee have been held. During 1996, the Italian Government has also committed soft loans of 100 billion Lire to India.

Besides interaction at official levels, interactions between the businessmen of the two countries have also taken place through a large number of visits by business delegations. These interactions have resulted in a significant increase in bilateral trade and economic activities.

Promotion of FDI from Italy, and exports to Italy is being done by dissemination of information through various channels and fora including Indian Embassy in Rome, and through frequent interaction between Indian and Italian partners.

Indian exports to Italy have increased from US$ 558.47m. in 1990-91 to US$ 1016.5 m. in 1995-96. Exports amounted to US$ 378.83 million during April to August, 1996. 186 foreign direct investment proposals from Italy have been approved from August, 1991 upto September, 1996. 14 FDI proposals were approved between April and September, 1996.

Opening of Insurance/Banking Sector for Foreign Companies

2114. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the observations of the World Economic Forum wherein it has been stated that opening of Indian insurance and banking sector, for foreign companies is essential to achieve the target growth percentage; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have seen some Press reports on the reported observations of the World Economic Forum 1995-96 held on October 27-29, 1996 at New Delhi. The policy of the Government in this regard has been laid down in the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government which says that; "There is room for public sector companies to co-exist and compete in the